

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00076 020058Z

21-12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /036 W

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R 012056Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3341

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND

SUBJECT: JEROME KOS AND FAMILY

1. THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF BELIZE TELEPHONED JANUARY 31 TO TELL ME WHAT HAD OCCURRED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE ARBITRATION BOARD SITTING ON THE KOS LAND IN ORANGE WALK. THE SESSION TOOK PLACE JANUARY 28. THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID THAT AFTER MUCH ARGUING OVER THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT MEMBER HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO STRIKE A COMPROMISE. IN CHAMBERS HE GOT THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND KOS TO AGREE TO APPROACH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT. THE SOLICITOR GENERAL WAS CONFIDENT THAT SUCH A BARGAIN COULD BE MADE.

2. THE CHIEF JUSTICE POINTED OUT TO KOS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT MEMBER WAS TO BRING A MOTION BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, IN THIS CASE THE PUISINE JUDGE. THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COURT IS IN APRIL. WE ALSO TOLD KOS THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIS MOTION WOULD CARRY. FURTHER, SINCE KOS HAD DISMISSED HIS ATTORNEY OUT OF HAND DURING THE ARBITRATION SESSION, THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT HE COULD OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL IN TIME.

3. APPARENTLY, THE CHIEF JUSTICE GAVE KOS A "DUTCH UNCLE" LECTURE ON HIS BEHAVIOR. HE REMARKED DURING OUR CONVERSATION THAT KOS, "SEEMS TO BE DRIVEN BY HIS WOMEN." HOWEVER, HE KEPT REPEATING THAT KOS, "HAS SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY." HOPEFULLY, HE AND THE

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MINISTER, WITH THE HELP OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, WILL BE ABLE TO

STRIKE A BARGAIN. THEN THE PROCESS WILL START ANEW WITH HIS LAND
IN CAYO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO BUY. DRISCOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, ARBITRATION, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AGREEMENTS, COURTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELIZE00076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740263/aaaachcd.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JEROME KOS AND FAMILY
TAGS: EIND, UK, (KOS, JEROME)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005